

NH Community
Behavioral Health
ASSOCIATION

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MEDICAID EXPANSION – CY 2016

**Unduplicated Clients
Premium Assistance Program (PAP) &
NH Health Protection Program (NHHPP)**

Center for Life Management PAP Clients – 264 NHHPP Clients – 43 Total Clients = 307	Northern Human Services PAP Clients – 261 NHHPP Clients – 87 Total Clients = 348
Community Partners of New Hampshire PAP Clients – NHHPP Clients – Total Clients =	Riverbend Community Mental Health, Inc. PAP Clients – NHHPP Clients – Total Clients = 251
Genesis Behavioral Health PAP Clients – NHHPP Clients – Total Clients =	Seacoast Mental Health Center, Inc. PAP Clients – 232 NHHPP Clients – 289 Total Clients = 521
Greater Nashua Mental Health Center PAP Clients – 202 NHHPP Clients – 232 Total Clients = 434	West Central Behavioral Health PAP Clients – Do not have breakdown NHHPP Clients – Do not have breakdown Total Clients = 117
Mental Health Center of Greater Manchester PAP Clients – 207 NHHPP Clients – 267 Total Clients = 474	

Please note these numbers may not be exact due to the movement of client's coverage throughout the year from a NHHPP policy over to a PAP policy.

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**STATEMENT TO THE COMMISSION TO EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS AND
FUTURE OF THE PREMIUM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
January 9, 2017**

On behalf of the NH Community Behavioral Health Association, I am here to briefly describe the impact of the NH Health Protection Program on the state's community mental health centers and the adults and children with mental illness whom we serve.

We understand that the charge given to this commission is to "evaluate the effectiveness and future of the premium assistance program", including financial metrics, the program's product offerings, and its impact on insurance premiums for individuals and small businesses. The insurance carriers and the Insurance Department will be the best source of that information. What we as providers can offer is information on our experience with the NH Health Protection Program and how it impacts our ability to provide services to people with mental health problems and addictions.

Last year when we spoke in support of HB 1696, which extended the expansion of Medicaid, just over 47,000 people had access to healthcare, including mental health care and substance abuse disorder/addiction treatment. The number is now over 50,000, per the most recent DHHS dashboard. I have a chart to submit to you with numbers from some of our centers on Premium Assistance Program (PAP) clients and NH Health Protection Program clients. This data is not yet complete, but we will be glad to provide the Commission with a more comprehensive picture as soon as we have it. But one thing we know for certain is that the NHHPP has significantly reduced the number of uninsured being served by the community mental health centers. This has given us some relief given that we are still living under 2006 Medicaid rates; and that workforce challenges for the centers continue to be a major problem.

The NH Health Protection Program has given our state the opportunity to create a more equitable system of care. This is a uniquely NH program which moves people into the commercial market with private coverage. Keeping these 50,000-plus enrollees insured helps the market and keeps costs down for all of us by increasing the size of the risk pool. And finally, it helps individuals with behavioral health problems get proper care for their conditions so that other parts of their lives – work, housing, education and meaningful participation in the community – are not limited or stifled.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak, and I will be glad to answer any questions you have.

Suellen M. Griffin, MSN
President, NH Community Behavioral Health Association
President/CEO, West Central Behavioral Health - Lebanon